

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HAMBURG IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 1612 ACTION SECSTATE LISBON INFO
DUBLIN BRUSSELS OTTAWA COPENHAGEN PARIS BONN ATHENS
REYKJAVIK ROME LUXEMBOURG THE HAGUE OSLO ANKARA LONDON
DATED 24 MAR 75
QUOTE
SECRET USNATO 1612

EXDIS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM BRUCE

DEPT ALSO PASS USNMR SHAPE PERSONAL FOR GENERAL SEITH
FROM AMBASSADOR BRUCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: NATO DISCUSSIONS ON PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) USNATO 1606

(B) STATE 065523

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT MARCH 24 MORNING MEETING ON PORTUGAL,
UK CHARGE REPORTED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S INSTRU-
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TIONS FOR A UK APPROACH IN LISBON. AMBASSADOR BRUCE PROVIDED

PERMREPS WITH TALKING POINTS PER REF B AND URGED ALLIES TO MAKE COMPARABLE APPROACHES. THERE WAS INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF WHETHER EC-NINE SHOULD MAKE APPROACH TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. PERMREPS SHOWED CONTINUED STRONG INTEREST IN ANY CONTACTS U.S. PLANS TO HAVE WITH SOVIETS ABOUT PORTUGAL. SYG LUNS INTENDS TO SPEAK PRIVATELY TO PORTUGUESE PERMREP ABOUT NATO/ PORTUGAL RELATIONS. PERMREP PORTUGAL GROUP PLANS TO MEET AGAIN MARCH 25. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MARCH 24 10:30 A.M. MEETING OF FNATO PERMREPS IN SYG'S PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM, UK CHARGE LOGAN STATED THE UK WILL ACT THIS MORNING (MARCH 24) ON REPRESENTATIONS TO THE LISBON GOVERNMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAS SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS AMBASSADOR TO MAKE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATION TO THE GOP:

QUOTE. PLEASE THEREFORE SEEK AN APPOINTMENT TOMORROW 24 MARCH WITH THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT (OR PRIME MINISTER IF YOU PREFER) AND SPEAK TO HIM ON THE FOLLOWING LINES. AS I SAID DURING MY VISIT TO LISBON LAST MONTH, THE EVENTS OF LAST APRIL WERE RECEIVED WITH PARTICULAR JOY IN BRITAIN. WE HAVE BEEN SADDENED TO SEE THAT RECENTLY IN PORTUGAL THERE HAS BEEN VIOLENCE AND OTHER EVENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF 11 MARCH, THAT HAVE NO PLACE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS ON 25 APRIL AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY AND AS A LANDMARK IN THE PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TOWARDS A FAIRER SOCIETY. WE TAKE THE VIEW THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, THAT THESE ELECTIONS ARE HELD AS PLANNED AND THAT THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY CONTINUES TO DEVELOP. IT IS OUR HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE IN PORTUGAL BEFORE THE ELECTIONS THAT WILL PREVENT THESE FROM BEING HELD IN A STABLE AND BALANCED ATMOSPHERE, SO THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY AND WITHOUT FEAR, AND IN ORDER THAT THESE VIEWS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE LEADERS OF THE NEW PORTUGAL. ALL WHO WELCOMED THE NEW PROSPECTS OPENED BY THE EVENTS OF APRIL 1974 WOULD BE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND CONCERNED IF THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY WERE NOT FULFILLED. END QUOTE.

2. LOGAN ADDED THAT THE NATO AMBASSADORS IN LISBON, CONVENED BY THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, FAVORED NO IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THEIR PART. HIS SUMMARY WAS IN ACCORD WITH REPORT IN LISBON 1641.

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AMBASSADOR BRUCE PROVIDED PERMREPS WITH TALKING POINTS AS PER REF B AND URGED COMPARABLE DEMARCHES BY ALLIES.

3. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE BY THE NINE IN DUBLIN. AMBASSADOR CATALANO OF ITALY AND THE LUXEMBOURG CHARGE (HOSTERT) FAVORED ACTION BY THE NINE. THE NETHERLANDS CHARGE (BUWALDA) REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT HAS DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD NOT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BUT THE

HAGUE WILL GO ALONG WITH ANY DECISION BY THE OTHERS WPTH THE RESTRICTION THAT NO THREATS OF AN ECONOMIC OR OTHER NATURE BE EMBODIED IN EC REPRESENTATIONS. UP TO THAT POINT, THE WORD "DEMARCHE" HAD BEEN FREELY USED, BUT AFTER AN INTERVENTION BY BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE IT WAS AGREED TO DROP IN IN FAVOR OF "APPROACH".

4. THE NORWEGIAN CHARGE (SELMER) REPORTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN OSLO WILL BE CALLED IN TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT OF CONCERN AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HIS COUNTRY. A MEETING OF NORDIC COUNTRIES IN NORWAY HAS ALREADY AGREED TO TAKE ACTION TO DEPRECATE ANY INTERFERENCE WITH DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN PORTUGAL. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, COUNSELS OTHERS TO BE CAUTIOUS IN ANY DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIETS ON PORTUGUESE MATTERS.

5. AMBASSADOR DEROSE OF FRANCE SAID PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC WILL ARRIVE IN PARIS FROM MOSCOW THIS MORNING. MEANWHILE, THE QUAI HAS HESITATIONS AND SKEPTICISM CONCERNING AN APPROACH TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT BY THE NINE; THIS ISSUE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

6. THERE WERE REMARKS ON MINOR POINTS BY THE DANISH, GREEK AND TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES. THE CONVERSATION THEN RETURNED TO WHAT APPEARS STILL TO BE A LACK OF DECISION AS TO HOW OR EVEN IF THE NINE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO GOP.

7. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DESTAERCKE, LIKE SEVERAL OTHERS, STILL IS STRONGLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER AND WHEN THE US GOVERNMENT WILL ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USSR ABOUT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS. IF WE DO SO, ALL PERMREPS HOPE THEY WILL BE APPROPRIATELY INFORMED ABOUT THE RESULTS.

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8 SYG LUNS OBTAINED BACKING FROM THE PERMREPS FOR HIS DESIRE TO HAVE A PRIVATE PERSONAL TALK WITH PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO NATO DE FREITAS CRUZ. LUNS SAID PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE IN EVERY RESPECT, WAS DISCREET, AND IN A DELICATE SITUATION HERE. SYG THOUGHT DE FREITAS CRUZ WAS IN A POSITION TO BE USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH PORTUGUESE/NATO RELATIONS. WHATEVER SYG SAYS TO THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR, HE FEELS SURE WOULD NOT BE REPORTED BY THE AMBASSADOR TO HIS GOVERNMENT. THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE FAVORED THIS PROPOSAL, BUT THAT ALL OF US SHOULD BE EXCEPTIONALLY CAREFUL NOT TO DIVULGE THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SYG AND THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WAS TO TAKE PLACE.

9. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AFTER 45 MINUTES OF CONVERSATION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ANOTHER MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE TUESDAY,

MARCH 25, FOLLOWING NPG MEETING AT 10:30 A.M.

BRUCE

UNQUOTE

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